

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PM-01 INR-01 /005 W

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O R 050838Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4844

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 1740

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. THE VILLAGE OF KAMPANG IN THE PURSAT REGION WAS OCCUPIED BY COMMUNIST TROOPS FOR SIX TO EIGHT HOURS SUNDAY NIGHT AND MONDAY MORNING. WHEN THE ENEMY WITHDREW, THEY LEFT 100 HOUSES BURNED TO THE GROUND AND ONE INFANT CHILD BADLY BURNED. ANOTHER CIVILIAN WAS KILLED DURING THE OCCUPATION OF THE VILLAGE.

2. IN ANOTHER INCIDENT AT SAMRANG BAK NEAR BATTAMBANG, ENEMY FORCES TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED THE VILLAGE MONDAY. WHEN THEY LEFT, THEY TOOK WITH THEM 40 FAMILIES AFTER BURNING 80 HOUSES AND KILLING THE VILLAGERS' LIVESTOCK. IN THE FIGHTING AT THE VILLAGE, FANK DEFENDERS HAD LIGHT TO MODERATE CASUALTIES WHILE THE ENEMY LEFT FOUR DEAD BEHIND.

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3. A TEN-SHIP MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED SAFELY IN PHNOM

PENH PORT MONDAY AFTERNOON AFTER TWO MINOR ENEMY ATTACKS EN ROUTE WHICH CAUSED NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. IT CARRIED MORE THAN 8,000 TONS OF RICE AS WELL AS MILITARY SUPPLIES. THE KHMER AIR FORCE AND NAVY PROVIDED PROTECTION FOR THE CONVOY ON THE TRIP FROM SOUTH VIETNAMESE WATERS.

4. FIGHTING CONTINUED ON SEVERAL FRONTS NEAR PHNOM PENH MONDAY WITH LITTLE CHANGE IN THE GENERAL SITUATION. IN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION REPORTED, FANK FORCES MET AN ENEMY ATTACK JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT MONDAY ON THE EAST BANK OF THE TONLE SAP OPPOSITE PREK PHNOM AND KILLED THIRTEEN OF THE ENEMY WHILE SUFFERING ONLY LIGHT LOSSES THEMSELVES. IN OTHER ACTION IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL, FANK REPORTS AS ADDITIONAL SIX ENEMY SOLDIERS KILLED IN ONE ENGAGEMENT.

5. FANK ATTACKS ON THE SOUTHERN PREK THANAOT FRONT MADE LITTLE PROGRESS MONDAY AGAINST STRONG ENEMY RESISTANCE. SCATTERED ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE WERE REPORTED ALL ALONG THE SOUTHERN FRONT WITH ONLY LIGHT FANK CASUALTIES NOTED. AN OFFENSIVE MANEUVER BY FANK FORCES IN THE SOUTHWEST SECTOR RESULTED IN INITIAL GAINS AGAINST ENEMY FORCES SOUTH OF ROUTE 201. THE ATTACK WAS CONTINUING EARLY TUESDAY MORNING AS ENEMY RESISTANCE INCREASED IN INTENSITY.

6. ELSEWHERE IN THE REPUBLIC, ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS CONFINED LARGELY TO MORTAR AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS ATTACKS AGAINST WIDELY SCATTERED GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. SUNDAY NIGHT, 10 ROUNDS OF 105MM HOWITZER SHELLS HIT TAKEO SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH WITHOUT CAUSING ANY CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. AND IN TWO ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE ENEMY NEAR KOMPONG THOM MONDAY, TWO ENEMY PRISONERS WERE TAKEN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFILTRATION, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM01740
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740255/aaaabzis.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAR 2002 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MOPS, CB
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005